

WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD NORTH COAST REGION

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE BOARD

June 2001

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Watershed Management Division Workload

[Staff contact: Ranjit Gill]

The Watershed Management Division is responsible for planning, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), and monitoring and assessment for the Region as a whole. Organizationally, this is accomplished through a close working relationship among three functional units: Planning, TMDL, and Assessment and Monitoring. While each unit is responsible for separate functions, each is dependent on the others and provides specific tools and products to the other. The TMDL Unit is responsible for developing waste reduction strategies that are dependent on monitoring and assessment information (Monitoring and Assessment Unit) and that result in implementation strategies (Planning Unit). Likewise, the Planning Unit develops implementation strategies that must be monitored. These strategies provide useful information when modifying TMDLs.

University of California Cooperative Extension, Sediment Inventory Training at the Hopland Field Station

[Staff contact: Rebecca Van Asdlan]

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) offered a short course on conducting sediment inventories. The UCCE first presented the Ranch Water Quality Planning Short Course to ranchers in the region. Many ranchers rely on the UCCE for advice, including erosion control and total maximum daily load (TMDL) compliance. The remainder of the day was spent in the field performing sediment delivery site inventory estimates per the UCCE method.



(Staff participating in a training class, Hopland Field Station)

The method includes determination of controllable sediment delivery sites, estimation of potential sediment volume deliverable to a watercourse, and prioritization of the site for mitigation.



(Attendees at UCCE Training Course, from left, Stormer Feiler, David Evans, Scott Gergus, Bernadette Reed, Reg Cullen, Lauren Clyde, Rebecca Van Asdlan, Gail Seymour, Matt Buffleben, Carrie Lukacic, Angela Wilson, Lisa Cinti, Michelle Fortner, and Jeff Church)

North Coast Watershed Assessment Program

[Staff contact: Robert Klamt]

The North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (NCWAP) is a team of managers and technical staff from the following departments with watershed assessment responsibilities for the North Coast: Resources Agency, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Conservation/Division of Mines and Geology, Department of Water Resources, and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) of the State Water Resources Control Board. NCWAP is a cooperative effort to assess watershed conditions using existing data with some ground-truthing. The program was funded by the Legislature in July 2000 for seven years. The Regional Water Board has six staff on board for the program.

The Gualala River watershed is the focus as a pilot for this year, and has received considerable attention by the agencies for developing a rapport with the Gualala River Watershed Council. Staff are in the process of gaining access to private lands to collect water quality and stream channel data under our new monitoring program. This new data will be pulled into the NCWAP assessment.

The Regional Water Board staff have also been gathering existing and new water quality data from the watersheds scheduled for calendar year 2001: Mattole River, Big River, Albion River, North Fork of the Eel River, and Redwood Creek watersheds. Outreach to local landowners and watershed groups is underway. Broader outreach occurred with large public meetings in Fortuna, Fort Bragg, Greenview, and Weaverville. A limiting factors analysis for salmonids will be drafted by July 1, 2001, through multi-agency effort.

The data analysis will run concurrently with collection of new data, continuing into the fall of 2001. Staff will then draft an assessment of water quality conditions to be melded into the full watershed assessment report. The final assessment report is due by 2002 and will include geologic analysis (landslides, landslide potential, stream geomorphology), fisheries analysis (current status, trends, limiting factors analysis), land use history (timber harvest plan history, other land use history, changes in vegetation), and hydrologic analysis (water quantity, climatic conditions) as well as the water quality conditions.

Proposition 13 Grant Awards

[Staff contact: Gail Seymour]

On May 17, 2001, the State Board approved the expenditure of more than \$40 million in Proposition 13 grant funds for water quality projects throughout the state. The Regional Water Board will receive nine grant awards, totaling, \$2,073,477.

These projects include the following watersheds: South Fork of the Eel River, Mattole River, Salmon River, Klamath River, Mad River, Scott River, Lower Klamath, and the Garcia River.

Many hours were spent by the Regional Water Board's Proposition 13 Evaluation Team evaluating and ranking 52 Regional Water Board proposals and 322 statewide proposals. As stated in the State Board's press release of May 17, 2001, "The final (statewide) list features 63 of the most environmentally critical water quality projects in California." The Regional Water Board's grant awards are the result of diligence, commitment and hard work from the evaluation team: Richard Azevedo, Janet Blake, Rachel Bosworth, Michele Fortner, Carrie Lukacic, Bernadette Reed, and Gail Seymour.

Technical Support Document for the Gualala Sediment TMDL

[Staff contact: Bryan McFadin]

Regional Water Board staff are preparing a Technical Support Document for submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which will include the technical analysis of loads and load allocations for sediment in the Gualala River watershed. A key piece of this effort is development of the sediment source analysis, which will identify sources of sediment delivery to watercourses and characterize the rates of sediment delivery from these sources.

In addition to the sediment source analyses, staff also collected samples during winter storm events to assess turbidity and suspended sediment conditions in the watershed. These data and other information will be used to develop the technical basis for the Gualala sediment TMDL.



(Stream crossing failure, a sediment source, in the South Fork of Fuller Creek, tributary to the Gualala River)

Regional Water Board TMDL development staff, with assistance from the Watershed Management Division, completed field work activities in support of the Gualala Sediment TMDL in May. While conducting the field work, staff were able to inspect instream conditions of various tributaries throughout the watershed. The field effort also gave staff an opportunity to meet a number of landowners and explain to them watershed issues and Regional Water Board programs. The Gualala TMDL Technical Source Document is expected to be ready for public review on July 1, 2001.

Triennial Basin Plan Review

[Staff contact: Lauren Clyde]

Every three years, the Regional Water Board considers whether the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region requires updating or revision. The first public report of Basin Planning issues was circulated on May 4, 2001. Workshops are scheduled in June in Santa Rosa, Eureka, and Yreka to hear comments from the public and interested agencies. The adoption hearing for the 2001-2004 priority list is noticed for August 23, 2001.

Watershed Management Initiative Chapter

[Staff contact: Janet Blake]

The 2001 Watershed Management Initiative Chapter was completed, submitted to the State Board, and has been placed on the Regional Water Board's web site.

Conceptual design for an Executive Summary is completed and will be released by July 1, 2001. Update of the Chapter for 2002 is ongoing.

Endangered Species

[Staff contact: Rebecca Van Asdian]

On April 24, 2001, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted to augment and extend the contract with the Regional Water Board to develop Basin Plan water quality standards to protect endangered species in the Russian River. The water quality objectives will address dissolved oxygen, temperature, and sediment for the Russian River drainage. Staff also completed MtBE monitoring in May on Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino. Data will be summarized in a later report.

Klamath Basin Fish and Water Management Symposium

[Staff contact: Caryn Woodhouse]

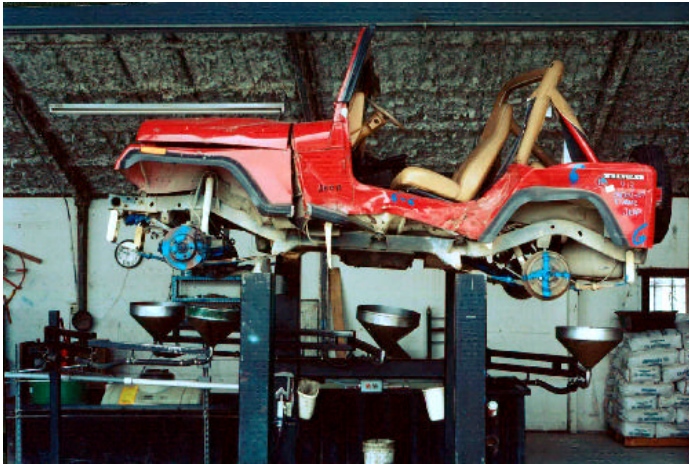
The Klamath Basin Fish and Water Management Symposium was held in Arcata from May 22 to May 25, 2001. Several Regional Water Board staff attended. The Conference had three concurrent sessions – a science track related to current research; a policy track related to the political and social issues; and a restoration track related to watershed and fisheries restoration activities. Some of the most interesting and divisive exchanges were at the policy sessions, including discussions of the problems in balancing the needs of the whole Klamath River Basin -- irrigators, fish, tribes, and downstream communities.

WATERSHED PROTECTION DIVISION

Industrial Storm Water Inspections

[Staff contact: Paul Keiran]

The Watershed Protection's Russian River unit began a focused industrial storm water permit inspection program. Annual report data has been analyzed and prioritized, with inspections performed for those facilities showing the most serious storm water pollutant discharges. During the past month, 16 inspections have been performed on various industries, including automobile wrecking yards, cement batch plants, metal recyclers petroleum tanks farms and sawmills.



(Best management practices for vehicle fluid removal at auto wrecking yard)

Inspectors discussed best management practices with facility personnel, and report the discussions have been very positive. All inspected facilities will be reinspected during the rainy season.

Update on Geysers Recharge Project

[Staff contact: Paul Keiran]

The first two segments of the Geysers Recharge Project, Llano Road and Mark West sections, are nearing completion. Pipe pressure testing, paving and general cleanup are remaining tasks for the contractor, Mountain Cascade. During trenching, approximately 200 yards of gasoline contaminated soil were removed from the intersection of Olivet and Woolsey Roads and taken to the contaminated soil treatment pad near the airport.

The Windsor section construction began in mid-May with vegetation clearing and borehole digging at Poole Creek. A cofferdam will soon be under construction at Windsor Creek. The contractor for this segment is Frontier Contracting, Inc. Preparation work has started at the Healdsburg South segment for the Russian River crossing, and a 30-foot diameter borehole to a depth of 80 feet will soon be under construction. The contractor for this segment, Steve P. Rados, Inc., plans for pipeline installation in July.

Dredging of Bodega Bay Harbor

[Staff contact: John Short]

On May 17, 2001, Regional Water Board staff John Short and Student Assistant Adrienne Fedrick attended a meeting with staff of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Sonoma County, and Bodega Bay Utility District. The plans involve dredging the Harbor channel and transporting to sedimentation ponds built and used

for previous dredging projects. Existing pipelines drain and filter excess water, which is then discharged to an adjacent stream. The extracted sediment is proposed to be used in the Bodega Bay area by removing topsoil from a nearby location and distributing the spoils in its place. After placing about ten feet of dredged spoils, topsoil will be replaced and the site stabilized. The County proposes to construct a baseball field, soccer field and walking path on top of the filled area.

Issues to be resolved include testing of sediments (both newly dredged and previously dredged) for toxic chemicals to ensure that a nearby community well and other waters are protected, controlling potential increases in turbidity from dredging and evaluating the release of excess waters, and the impact to aquatic habitat throughout the dredging process. The ACOE is the lead agency for preparing the project proposal and overseeing the dredging project.

Klamath Basin Water Issues

[Staff contact: Tom Dunbar]

Governor Gray Davis declared the Klamath River drought as an emergency situation and provided \$5 million through the Office of Emergency Services to coordinate and fast-track groundwater development for agricultural use this year. A longer-term program also would be developed to use groundwater for drought contingencies and water supply augmentation in the future. Groundwater resources in the upper Klamath River basin would be tapped at various locations and pumped into irrigation canals for agricultural use and augmentation in the Tulelake Wildlife Refuge.

As many as twenty deep wells would be constructed this summer under contract with the Tulelake Irrigation District (TID) and after consultation with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BUREC) is conducting a similar program in conjunction with the California program. The BUREC program will include up to forty deep wells and will be conducted in partnership with the Oregon Water Resources Department and DWR. BUREC already has developed a Ground Water Acquisition Water Quality Monitoring Program. Additional funding from the U.S. Department of Interior brings the total commitment to this project to \$95 million. California is contributing an additional \$2 million to obtain groundwater resource information through DWR.

Staff is working with the TID and the BUREC on necessary Regional Water Board permits. Groundwater

from each well will be sampled and analyzed before being pumped into surface waters.

CLEANUPS AND SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

West College Avenue /Clover Drive PCE Groundwater Contamination, Soil-Gas Monitoring, Santa Rosa

[Staff contact: Mark Bartson]

Regional Water Board staff are currently interpreting the results from the first phase of soil-gas monitoring in the neighborhood. In addition, air quality monitoring results in ten homes have been distributed to home- owners. Staff have worked with Sonoma County in implementing a health concerns outreach program using \$100,000 from the Cleanup and Abatement Account. Staff are continuing a strong effort to keep the public informed of progress in the investigation via meetings with small groups, conversations with residents in the neighborhood, mailings, and Internet postings of information.

Roseland Area Contamination, Public Outreach Meeting

[Staff contact: Mark Bartson]

In May staff sponsored a meeting with the County of Sonoma regarding the McMinn Superfund Groundwater Contamination under the provisions of the Roseland Plan of Action between the Regional Water Board and the South Park Sanitation District/County of Sonoma. The public outreach meeting updated interested residents of the Roseland area on the groundwater contamination issues. The Regional Water Board staff presented an overview of contamination issues in the Roseland area and answered questions regarding specific cleanup sites. The consultant for the County of Sonoma presented an update on the results of their investigation into the groundwater contamination by halogenated volatile organic compounds (HVOC) which is the focus of the Plan of Action.

Under the Plan of Action a final remedial action report must be submitted by the County to the Regional Water Board in February 2002.

The Regional Water Board will present an update on all of the sites at an August 18, 2001, public meeting in the neighborhood as part of the annual "Summer Splash."

In a related matter, the joint project between the City of Santa Rosa and the Regional Water Board to construct a new water main on Emmy Lou Court in the Roseland area has been completed as of March 2001. Seven

residences were connected to city water, replacing threatened domestic wells. State Cleanup and Abatement Account funds paid for the water hookup.



(Photo depicting city water hookup connections, Emmy Lou Court, Santa Rosa)

An accompanying part of the project, financed by the City of Santa Rosa, was the installation of new sanitary and storm sewer mains, the water main, and paving of the street.



(Photo depicting where sewer main was installed Emmy Lou Court, Santa Rosa)

Santa Rosa Creek Contamination by Farmers Lane

[Staff contact: Joan Fleck]

Petroleum discharged from leaking underground tanks at 2799 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa, has migrated through groundwater and reached Santa Rosa Creek. Samples of creek water collected in the Spring of 2001 contained

the additive Methyl-tertiary-Butyl Ether (MtBE). Staff will be requiring an abatement plan be developed and submitted as soon as possible.

TIMBER HARVEST DIVISION

Timber Harvest Activities

[Staff contact: Frank Reichmuth]

The Timber Harvest Division will continue to strive to meet the fiscal year 2001-2002 work plan commitments. One focus of the fiscal year 2001-2002 work plan will be to evaluate inspection commitments relative to enforcement and monitoring activities, watershed analysis, complaint response, and review team meeting attendance.

Pacific Lumber Company

[Staff contact: Frank Reichmuth]

Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO) filed a petition for review and a request for a stay of a monitoring and reporting program order issued by the Regional Water Board Assistant Executive Officer. The State Board heard this matter on May 17, 2001, and denied PALCO's request for a stay of the monitoring and reporting program. The State Board also identified a fast track hearing process for the review of PALCO's appeal and scheduled the hearings for June 25, 26, and 27, 2001.

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINTS/ ORDERS

There were ten Administrative Civil Liability Complaints issued during the month of May.

On May 3, 2001, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued four Administrative Civil Liability Complaints (ACLCs) in the amount of \$1,200 each for failure of Baxman Gravel Company, Inc., to file annual storm water reports for four facilities for 1999-2000.

ACLCs were also issued in early May for two Gualala Aggregates facilities, both in the amount of \$1,200 for their failure to file storm water reports for 1999-2000.

On May 3, 2001, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Mr. Michael Menges, in the amount of \$30,000, for failure to comply with California Water Code section 13267(b) Orders requiring him to submit a completed site investigation report or a new workplan for the investigation of the discharge of petroleum hydro-carbons from underground tanks on his property in Siskiyou County. The Complaint forgives \$15,000 of the assessed \$30,000, provided that Mr. Menges submits the required workplan by July 15, 2001.

On May 4, 2001, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Redwood Oil Company, Robert I. Barbieri, Peter C. Van Alyea and Peggy R. Van Alyea (dischargers), in the amount of \$50,000 for violations of Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R1-2001-34. The CAO was issued due to releases of petroleum hydrocarbons and Methyl tertiary Butyl Ether (MtBE) to soil and groundwater at and near 455 Yolanda Avenue, Santa Rosa. Staff have negotiated a settlement with Redwood Oil, and anticipate reissuance of a modified complaint shortly.

On May 4, 2001, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Mr. James Doyle, in the amount of \$5,000, for failure to comply with a California Water Code section 13267(b) Order requiring him to submit a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC Plan) and a storage statement for the aboveground petroleum storage tank located on his property in Cecilville. The Complaint forgives \$2,500 of the assessed \$5,000, provided Mr. Doyle submits an SPCC Plan, storage statement, and plans for installation of secondary containment to the Regional Water Board by June 15, 2001.

On May 7, 2001, the Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates, Ltd., in the amount of \$7,500 for alleged violations of water quality laws related to the one-day release of approximately 300 gallons of a potassium permanganate solution into the storm drain system, which then flowed into Airport Creek, tributary to Windsor Creek, tributary to Mark West Creek. Of this amount, \$2,500 is due and payable within 30 days of this Complaint. The remaining \$5,000 is suspended contingent upon Kendall-Jackson's completion of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The SEP includes, but is not limited to, funding a project to provide tree plantings, irrigation, and care of boxed native trees on the northern bank of Airport Creek. Staff have negotiated a settlement with Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates, Ltd.

CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13267 LETTER ORDERS

There were seven California Water Code section 13267(b) Orders issued during the month of May.

Steven Quaid Property, Roundy Road, Weaverville

[Staff contact: Andrew Baker]

Regional Water Board staff and the Department of Fish and Game are investigating this home-site-grading and timber harvest conversion project. The investigation was prompted by a report dated March 16, 2001, from a consulting firm.



(Erosion from Timber Harvest Conversion for New Homesite - Photo 1)

The data shows that the discharge from the site increased the turbidity in Little Browns Creek by 2,700 percent.

Little Browns Creek is a tributary to Weaver Creek and the Trinity River, which provide habitat for Coho salmon. Coho salmon are listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The discharge of sediment is in amounts deleterious to beneficial uses of water and in violation of the Basin Plan.



(Erosion from Timber Harvest Conversion for New Homesite - Photo 2)

On April 30, 2001, the Executive Officer for the Regional Water Board issued a California Water Code section 13267(b) letter requiring an erosion control plan, including emergency and long-term measures to prevent additional erosion and sediment discharge to Little Browns Creek and an estimate of the soil that eroded from the property and was discharged into Little Browns Creek. An Administrative Civil Liability Complaint is possible in the future.

SPILLS RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

There were three spills reported on the Sanitary Sewer Overflow and Spill Data Management System since the last report.

E and B Tanker Spill, Hwy. 101, Mile Marker 99.79

[Staff contact: Dan Warner]

Regional Water Board staff were contacted by the California Department of Transportation regarding a fuel oil spill on Hwy 101 south of Garberville. A tanker truck had overturned in the northbound lane of Hwy 101 at mile marker 99.97. Fuel oil from the ruptured saddle tanks spilled, leaking approximately 800 gallons into the environment. Seven containment dams were constructed between the tanker and the first culvert to contain the leaking fuel oil.



(Fuel Oil #6 on Highway 101, South of Piercy, May 23, 2001)

The estimated volume contained by the dams is approximately 700 gallons. Prior to the culvert being blocked, approximately 100 gallons of fuel oil entered the culvert and down the hillside.

The total length of hillside impacted is approximately 400 feet. The spilled fuel oil came within 300 feet of the Eel River.



(Fuel Oil #6 coming through 24" culvert)

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP FUND PROGRAM

During the month of May, there were three Letters of Commitment issued in Region 1. From January 2001 through May 2001, there has been a total of \$1,474,475 in funds issued to tank owners in Region 1 from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund.

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 CERTIFICATIONS

There were six Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications and one Denial without Prejudice issued during the month of May.

Information regarding all proposed certifications is available at our Internet web site at:

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/notice404.html>

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES/ WORKSHOPS

As mentioned earlier in this report, an outreach effort related to groundwater cleanups was sponsored in Santa Rosa in May.

On May 9 and 10, 2001, in Fortuna and Fort Bragg respectively, the North Coast Watershed Assessment Program held outreach sessions to inform the public of the program, answer questions, and gather input on the draft methods manual for data collection. Robert Klamt, Program Manager for the Regional Water Board, participated in the presentations and the panel at the sessions. The sessions were informative and helpful, reaching a wide range of the public, as well as providing valuable input on the program and the methods to be used by the agencies. Two additional sessions occurred in Greenvew (Siskiyou County) and Weaverville (Trinity County) on May 15 and 16, 2001.

On May 15, 2001, Regional Water Board staff participated in a panel discussion held at the public monthly meeting of the Gualala River Watershed Council in Gualala. The subject matter involved conversions of forest land to vineyards in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. Other participants on the panel included the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Forest Unlimited, and a panel of experts from University of California Extension. Issues discussed included the application process for conversions, vineyard expansions, pending local conversion applications, biodiversity impacts, water rights, pesticides, landowner rights, water diversion and aquifers, tourism, wildlife corridors, and zoning.

On May 23, 2001, Associate Engineering Geologist Mark Neely spoke at a University of California conference on Land Use Planning, Environmental Regulation, and the Wine Industry. He explained the role of the Regional Water Board in permitting winery wastewater systems, including the proposed general permit for such systems, and also discussed 401 Certification and storm water permits. Mark is also a certified engineering geologist and was recently appointed to the Mendocino County Grading Committee, an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors on the development of a county grading ordinance.

PUBLIC FILE REVIEW

From May 1 through June 1, three written requests were made for review of the Regional Water Board's records. These files were made available pursuant to the California Public Records Act. In addition, a total of 39 people came into the office and requested file review.

PROMOTIONS/STAFF HIRING

New hires during the month of May include Jeff Church, an Environmental Specialist II who works for the Basin Planning Unit in the Watershed Management Division.

JUNE AND JULY REGIONAL WATER BOARD MEETINGS

The Regional Water Board meeting for June 28 and 29 is scheduled to be in Santa Rosa. The July meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2001, in Yreka. The June meeting will be Executive Officer Lee Michlin's last Board meeting.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.

